



THAT WICKED VOICE; OR, DRIVEN FROM HOME.

A Tragedy in Three Acts.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

First Divinity Student—MR. RYE.
Second Divinity Student—MR. LOGAN.
Third Divinity Student—MR. ELLIS.
The Landlady—MRS. KARL RICHARDS.

THE VOICE, DORA CLARK.

[NOTE—The piano, screwdriver, lace curtains and bottle of violet ink used in this production are all furnished by Mrs. Richards.]

Time—1 o'clock a. m. Place, a boarding-house at No. 133 West Thirty-fifth street.

ACT I.

THE VOICE (loquiter)—Wow! How cold this hall cloth is! Why didn't I put on my stockings; but, no matter. Cold shivers convulse. The Voice. I wonder which is Mr. Rye's room, and if he is in? Oh, sure, these Divinity Students are early birds. Ah, here is the door. (Raps.)

FIRST STUDENT (sleepily)—All right. Be down right away. (Goes to sleep again.)

THE VOICE—Wouldn't that jar you? (Gives a double knock.)

FIRST STUDENT—Who's there?

THE VOICE—Me. Don't yell so loud, Mr. Rye. Open the door, dear.

FIRST STUDENT (trembling)—That isn't the landlady. (Aloud.) What do you want?

THE VOICE—Let me in.

FIRST STUDENT (praying for strength)—Go away, woman; I don't know you. Be gone, I say.

The Voice uses language not down in the theological text books and shuffles over the fringed linoleum. Soon the notes of a boarding house piano wail, dimly through the building, laden with the air of "Comin' Through the Rye." The melody gives evidence of being jabbed into the night with one finger.

FIRST STUDENT—Heavens, that's intended for me, and at this time of night, too! How did the Voice learn my name? (Groans.)

THE VOICE (loquiter)—It's the only time I know, and if anybody asks you just tell them I'll make him sick of it. (Plays "Comin' Through the Rye" some more, this time with both fists.)

SECOND STUDENT—What is that fearful racket?

THIRD STUDENT (who rooms with Second)—Sounds like a barrel of bottles rolling down stairs.

THE VOICE (bringing the Rye fantasia to a close)—There must be others in this joint. Goes into the hall and raps on another door.

SECOND AND THIRD STUDENTS (in chorus)—Who is it?

THE VOICE—Me.

SECOND AND THIRD STUDENTS—Oh, leave us, wicked Voice. They bury their heads in the blankets and The Voice whisks angrily down the corridor, leaving an echo of swear words.

ACT II.

Next Night.

First Student awakes and discovers something robed in fleecy white standing in the centre of the room. With great difficulty he represses an impulse to scream.

THE VOICE—Ah, there, my sachet powder.

FIRST STUDENT—Help!

THE VOICE (R. ex. it)—Oh, what a joy! (Goes away and plays the piano, same tune, for two hours.)

(Interval of several hours.)

FIRST STUDENT—Mrs. Richards, I cannot abide here longer.

MRS. RICHARDS—What's the trouble? Is the steak too—

FIRST STUDENT (in hollow accents)—Have you seen or heard that wicked Voice?

(The landlady turns and wipes away a tear.)

FIRST STUDENT—It was in my room last night. I forgot to lock the door. Oh, such a spectacle! I never, never shall forget it. (Covers his face with his hands and weeps.)

THE LANDLADY (weakly)—How was the Voice dressed?

FIRST STUDENT—Don't ask me, please. I could not bear to look. I only said: "Go away, please!"

THE LANDLADY (aside)—And that Voice had the impudence to tell me it was married at—

THE VOICE—What's it to you? Unhand me, madam, and let me pass!

THE LANDLADY—Give up that front door key, young woman, or you'll not move a single dot out of this house!

THE VOICE—I don't want your old key! Here, take it! (Throws key at The Landlady, but misses.)

THE LANDLADY—You saucy creature! I'll call the police and have you arrested!

THE VOICE—Humph! You don't dare! Take that to remember me by! (Makes a side strike at the head of The Landlady with one of the handbags.)

THE LANDLADY—Help! Help!

(A valiant female boarder rushes in and seizes the Voice by the Psyche knot and pushes straight ahead. Brave hand-maiden also comes to the rescue, and this combined force, shoving from behind, propels The Voice into the street.)

THE VOICE (From the pavement)—If I only had a hat-pin some of you people would feel it deep!

THE LANDLADY (Backed by fem. chorus)—Go on, you baggage, and good riddance to you!

The Voice walks haughtily in the direction of Sixth avenue with nose in the air and singing "Comin' Through the Rye."

SALVATION ARMY PRIVATE—Oh, ster! Why sing such wicked ditties?

VOICE—Go down yourself, siss!

NEW BUILDINGS IN AND OUT OF TOWN.

Architects Busy on Proposed Improvements in the Greater New York.

Country Mansion Projected by President Maxwell, of the New Jersey Central.

Broadway Firm to Erect Fifteen Dwellings in Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn.

GRANITE SCHOOLHOUSE IN A SUBURB.

Edison Electric Illuminating Company to Construct a \$300,000 Power House. Flats and Dwellings to Go Up West of Central Park.

Architects in the city have their time much occupied in the preparation of plans for out-of-town improvements.

President J. Rogers Maxwell, of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, is to erect a country mansion at Glen Cove, L. I., from plans being drawn by William B. Tubby.

The Morris Building Company, of No. 26 Broadway, this city, is having plans drawn by William B. Tubby for fifteen two-story brick dwellings, to be erected on Willoughby avenue, between Schenck and Stenben streets, Brooklyn. The cost will be \$30,000 and the buildings will be started in the Spring.

Architects Pierce & Breen are drawing plans for a three-story brick, granite and terra cotta school building, costing \$45,000, to be erected at Maspeth, L. I.

Walter Large is to erect a dwelling at New Rochelle, from plans by E. Hanford Sturges.

The Edison Electric Illuminating Company is having plans drawn for a one-story brick and iron power house, 260x250, to be erected at the foot of Sixty-ninth street, Brooklyn, at a cost of \$300,000.

Abraham & Straus are having plans prepared for a seven-story store building, to be erected at the northeast corner of Livingston street and Gallatin place, Brooklyn.

Architects are doing considerable in the way of planning improvements for the region west of Central Park.

Ferdon & Elliot have plans under way for six four-story brick dwellings, costing \$64,000, to be erected by William and James Bradley, on the south side of Seventy-fifth street, 255 feet west of Amsterdam avenue.

George Kelsier is preparing plans for two five-story brick flats, costing \$40,000, to be erected by Mrs. May M. Stewart, on the south side of Sixty-fifth street, 200 feet east of Columbus avenue.

G. A. Schellinger is making the plans for three five-story brick flats, costing \$31,000, to be erected on the north side of Eighty-fifth street, 175 feet west of Amsterdam avenue.

Henry K. Cook is both owner and architect of the three four-story brick and stone dwellings which he will erect at the southeast corner of Eighty-seventh street and Riverside drive, at a cost of \$15,900.

John Bousier is engaged on plans for eight three-story brick dwellings, costing \$144,000, to be erected on the south side of Ninety-eighth street, 100 feet west of West End avenue.

Among the projected improvements north of Central Park are two four-story brick flats, costing \$20,000, to be erected on the south side of One Hundred and Fourteenth street, 125 feet west of Seventh avenue, by William R. Powers, from plans by Ferdon & Elliot.

SECOND AND THIRD STUDENTS (blushing)—Eh—why doesn't the Voice wear more clothes?

THE LANDLADY—Have you seen it, too?

SECOND AND THIRD STUDENTS—Have we? Yes, and heard it besides. (In shocked accents.) Madame, the Voice entered our room and sang, "Just Tell Them That You Saw Me," at 3 o'clock in the morning. So we thought best to tell you that we saw it, and any one else that may desire to know.

We have taken another boarding house, where, they have assured us, the Voice remain in their own rooms, or, at least, do not emerge unless fully dressed.

(Second and Third Students hasten away in a swift express wagon.)

ACT III.

The Landlady—Didn't you tell me that you could play the piano?

The Voice—So I can.

The Landlady—Well, you can't play it, at least, any more in this house.

The Voice—Oh, I don't know! Who told you, old lady? I'm going out for a stroll, so ta ta. Is my face on straight?

The Landlady (furious)—I'll fix that Voice if I have to call in the police.

(Goes to the boudoir of the Voice, puts a padlock on the piano and moves the luggage belonging to The Voice out into the hall. Also locks the door of the room.)

The Voice (11 o'clock a. m. Out all night. Tries the door of the room)—Well, this is nice, I don't think! The old lady thought she'd fool me, but will she!

The Voice kicks in the door, pries open the piano with a screwdriver and plays "Comin' Through the Rye" with such vehemence that two of the keys collapse, thus making knots in the tune.

THE VOICE (at the end of one hour)—Ah, what's the use? He's gone. Wish I knew some other piece. Still, "Comin' Through the Rye," or going through, is a nice tune. Hello! where's my things? Well, if that creature hasn't turned everything out! But I'll get even, see if I don't. Whoop!

Armed with the keen-edged screw driver The Voice assaults and mortally wounds the lace curtains—new ones, at that. The defenceless fabric is torn from the windows, rent to shreds and trampled a shapeless mass into the boarding house carpet.

Still reeking with the desire for vengeance, The Voice seizes a bottle of violet ink and pours it over the ruined curtains and on the carpet. The scene ends with a skirt dance on the piano, interspersed with a few serio-comic songs selected at random. Then The Voice starts to leave the house carrying two handbags, some powder, rags, etc.

THE LANDLADY—(Pale, but firm). Where are you going, Miss?

THE VOICE—What's it to you? Unhand me, madam, and let me pass!

THE LANDLADY—Give up that front door key, young woman, or you'll not move a single dot out of this house!

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WOLCOTT AN ENVOY FOR BIMETALLISM.

Colorado's Senator Sails To-day for a Meeting in London.

Representatives of Five Powers to Confer on Prospects of Formal Conference Will Be Called if They Find the Situation Warrants It.

Formal Conference Will Be Called if They Find the Situation Warrants It.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS PREPARING.

The Committee Has a Bill Nearly Ready Empowering the President to Appoint Delegates.

There will be an international conference of representatives of five governments in London in the interests of bimetalism the latter part of this month. It will be informal, notwithstanding that the representatives are accredited from their governments and it is merely looking to a formal conference that they are to be gathered.

The Bimetallic League of Great Britain has been moving to this end for some time and has awakened sufficient interest in the United States, England, France, Germany and Russia to induce them to send agents to London to confer concerning the preliminaries to a convention of the powers in the interest of a double standard.

The representative of the United States will be Senator Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado, who arrived in this city yesterday morning. He remained officially at the Waldorf all day, but was really in conference with friends at a friend's house. He sailed to-day for London.

He declined to discuss his powers, which were bestowed by the Republican Congressional caucus with the advice and consent of Major William McKimley, Jr., President-elect.

Asked if this was not true, the Senator smiled and said, "Really, no," and got no further.

"All I can say now," he said, "is that any conference with foreign bimetalists will be entirely unofficial. My invitation comes to me personally from prominent men in the bimetallic movement in England, and we think that something may be done now toward calling an international conference. We want to talk over the situation in the several countries interested and see what the political conditions really are. A formal conference that would result in nothing would be worse than no conference, and we want to make sure of our ground, and I hope to get the situation completely outlined and return before the end of the present session."

"I had hoped to get away without the object of an visit to London being known, but I fear that we may be somewhat hampered when the story gets abroad. Prejudices may be aroused and work to the disadvantage of the movement for an international agreement. The time certainly seems to be auspicious for such an agreement, and I hope to see it accomplished."

A bill authorizing the President to appoint delegates to a conference of the powers concerning an agreement on the relative coinage ratio of silver to gold is now being prepared by a committee of the Republican caucus, and will be submitted to the caucus at an early date. It will be presented in the Senate, and it is thought, will receive the approval of President Cleveland.

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